

VZCZCXRO6815  
OO RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR  
DE RUEHDBU #1462 2131043  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O P 011043Z AUG 06  
FM AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8257  
INFO RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1738  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1465  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1683  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1722  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1679  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1661  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1260  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1709  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 9576

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUSHANBE 001462

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EUR/RUS, INL, S/P

E.O. 12958: DECL: 8/1/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [ENRG](#) [SNAR](#) [RS](#) [TI](#)

SUBJECT: U.S.-RUSSIA COOPERATION STILL POSSIBLE IN TAJIKISTAN

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard E. Hoagland, Ambassador, Embassy

Dushanbe, State Department.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (C) The departing U.S. Ambassador hosted a final farewell reception at the U.S. Residence July 31. Russian Charge d'affairs Vyacheslav Svetlichniy, a career diplomat, attended. He pulled the Ambassador aside and said he sincerely wished our two governments could attain the same degree of mutual respect that pertains between our embassies in Tajikistan. He praised the U.S. Embassy for developing, over time, non-ideological relations of mutual respect with a broad range of Tajik society - government, students, intelligentsia, and others. Svetlichniy said, "We haven't learned how to do that. We make demands and expect obedience. I will long remember your lessons."

¶2. (C) In fact, it is important to know that the entire U.S. Embassy team has worked hard to sustain a positive relationship with the Russian Embassy, especially at the DCM and working levels. Current Russian Ambassador Ramazan Abdulatipov is, on the surface, a slightly charming high-level Kremlin political appointee sent to Dushanbe to "save" Tajikistan for Russia. In the end, unfortunately, he is a rigid ideologue of the old school, who seems to burn as many bridges as he tries to build. DCM Svetlichniy, on the other hand, is a seasoned diplomat who seems genuinely interested in a positive working relationship with the United States. Also important, unlike many Russians, he views the Tajiks as competent, educated partners, not poor, other-race country cousins.

¶3. (C) The best possibility for U.S.-Russia cooperation in Tajikistan is counter-narcotics. We sincerely hope Team Embassy Dushanbe will be able to work productively with the new Russian Embassy counter-narcotics officer, expected to arrive before the end of this calendar year. Svetlichniy said, "We hope he will be a real professional, not an FSB has-been." There is also room for cooperation in hydro-energy for the greater region - if, indeed, Moscow truly wants to cooperate and not compete.

